



WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE A. F. OF L., BY INSTRUCTION OF ITS LOUIS CONVENTION, DIRECTED THE OFFICERS AT HEADQUARTERS TO FURNISH A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER, FREE OF COST, TO ALL OFFICIAL LABOR PUBLICATIONS.

Containing a brief summary of important matters, affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will further the development and progress of the trade union movement.

No. 35.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
HEADQUARTERS

801-809 G ST. N. W., WASHINGTON, D. C.

FRANK MORRISON, SECRETARY SAMUEL GOMPERS, PRESIDENT

ENDORSE HARRIMAN

Convention of American Federation of Labor Backs Labor's Candidate for Mayor of Los Angeles.

Washington, Dec. 2.—Pursuant to a letter addressed to Samuel Gompers, President, and Frank Morrison, Secretary, from the national executive committee of the Socialist party, requesting that assistance be rendered to the candidacy of Job Harriman for the mayoralty of Los Angeles, the Atlanta convention took action. The concluding portion of the letter, written by the acting secretary of the national executive committee, says: "I am safe in saying that our national executive committee thoroughly understands the non-political character of your body. We are not asking you for any general endorsement of the Socialist party, or its principles or policies. Any action you may take in this matter will not be so construed."

The matter was referred to the Labor Representation Committee, which reported, in part, as follows:

* * * "Your committee feels gratified that the assurance is given that any action by this convention upon this subject will not be regarded as any general or other endorsement of the Socialist Party or its principles or policies, and that any action this convention may take in the matter will not be so construed. We cannot refrain from pointing out a misconception contained in the statement of the National Executive Committee, when it says that that body thoroughly understands the 'non-political' character of the American Federation of Labor. As a matter of fact, the trade union movement as typified in the American Federation of Labor, in its constant struggle, aims and methods could not avoid being political even if it sought to be. Every economic, industrial and legislative effort made by the organized labor movement of our country has its political influence and significance. The American trade union movement is not non-political, it is politically non-partisan." * * * The committee then recommended the adoption of the following resolution, which was passed by unanimous vote:

"Resolved, That this, the 31st Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor, held at Atlanta, Ga., the representatives of the organized workers of America, sends greetings to the working people and all the people of Los Angeles, and extends to them our hearty endorsement and moral support in the struggle for justice and right and freedom in which they are now engaged; that the political campaign now in progress in Los Angeles typifies tyranny, oppression, a curb on the

movement for the common uplift, in the candidacy of the present incumbent of the mayoralty of that city, Mr. Alexander; that, on the other hand, the candidate of the workers and of the progressive, liberty-loving people of Los Angeles is expressed in the nomination for the mayoralty of Los Angeles of Job Harriman. This Convention urges the citizenship of Los Angeles, without regard to sex or station in life, whose civic pride and love of justice dominate their action above the greed of wealth, to vote for Job Harriman and his associates for the mayoralty and municipal legislative offices.

"Resolved, That inasmuch as every effort by the moneyed interests and reactionary forces of Los Angeles and elsewhere is now being concentrated in the effort to re-elect Alexander, and realizing that labor cannot entertain the hope to win its victories in matching its meagre resources to the money bags of corporate power, yet we call upon the workers and the sympathizers with progress throughout the country to give their moral support and to contribute such money as they may be enabled to afford toward the campaign fund in the effort to elect Job Harriman, Mayor of Los Angeles."

----- CLERKS' WAGES IN AUSTRALIA

Sydney, Dec. 2.--Clerks in Australia are so poorly paid that there is a proposal to establish a wage board to fix a minimum rate of wage for clerks. The secretary of the Clerks' union reports that 2,505 male clerks over 21 years of age only get an average wage of \$6. per week. These clerks work 80 hours a week.

----- AGAINST SUNDAY WORK

London, Dec. 2.--The question of Sunday labor on the part of tug boatmen led to a strike at Cardiff, but, fortunately, matters were adjusted and the men returned to work. The new arrangement means that if any boat is sent out with a pleasure party on Sunday the crew shall receive one day's extra pay per man. The owners agree that as far as possible each crew shall have at least one Sunday in three off duty.

----- CARMEN'S STRIKE ENDS

London, Dec. 2.--Although several of the London carmen came out on strike recently and others threatened to do so, owing to the fact that several firms were not paying the full rate of wages agreed upon in August last, the trouble has been ended by those firms agreeing to comply.

----- COTTON MILLS TROUBLE

London, Dec. 2.--There is a strike in the spinning section of the Adelphi cotton mill at Bollington near Macclesfield, and about 150 are affected. The trouble arose over demand for an increase in wages. There is also another dispute and strike at the Woodside mills at Bolton, where 250 are out.

----- GAS WORKERS' UNION

London, Dec. 2.--During the past quarter the income of the Gas Workers' union has increased by \$26,000 as compared with the previous quarter. The membership has increased by 20,933 and the total membership at present is 58,174.

FOR McNAMARAS

The American Federation of Labor Convention Requests All Paid Officials To Donate One Week's Salary to McNamara Fund.

Washington, Dec. 2.--During the report of the committee on President's report at the Atlanta Convention of the American Federation of Labor, and while considering that portion which dealt with the defense of the McNamaras, Delegate Furuseth had this to say: "Not as Secretary of the Committee, but as a delegate to this convention, in my own right and upon my own responsibility, I propose to offer a motion. In explanation of it I want to say, that sundry ideas came before us on the committee. Sundry propositions were made to us as members of the committee in regard to raising funds. We questioned the advisability or wisdom of putting it into the report, but it was suggested by the friends of the proposition that it would be better to come before you from the floor. I have waited on two occasions for it to come from the floor. It has not come, and now I make this motion as a delegate to this convention. I move that all paid officials of the labor movement be requested to give one week's wages to the McNamara fund." The motion offered by the delegate was carried by a vote of 196 to 7. Following this another motion was made: "That each delegate to this convention of the American Federation of Labor be authorized to turn over to Secretary Morrison one day's pay for the benefit of this fund." This latter motion was carried by an unanimous vote. It is estimated that this will bring in between \$25,000 and \$30,000.

PRINTERS GET INCREASE

St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 2.--The daily papers of this city have just signed a new scale of wages with the Typographical Union, granting a raise in wages and other substantial advantages. The men who work as "extras" are to receive 25 cents per day additional compensation over the scale providing they work less than four days per week; while if working four days or over they are to receive the regular scale. The piece scale on machines has been raised from 10 to 11 cents per thousand for 7 point type on evening papers, and from 11 to 12 cents per thousand on morning papers. The general time scale for machine operators and floor men is 55 cents per hour for day work and 62 1/3 cents per hour for night work.

A SPLENDID REPORT

Washington, Dec. 2.--The report of James Duncan, (the delegate representing the American Federation of Labor at the International Secretariat at Budapest this year) presented to the Atlanta convention of the A. F. of L. is considered a classic in labor literature. It contains a general resume of the labor condition in various parts of Continental Europe and with a detailed report of the proceedings of the International Secretariat. The delegates to the convention were thoroughly appreciative of the splendid manner in which the various subjects were treated, and Mr. Duncan received compliments on every hand for his effort in what can be termed a genuine literary production.

CAR WORKERS AND CARMEN

Washington, Dec. 2.—The controversy existing between the International Car Workers and the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen was again before the Atlanta convention of the American Federation of Labor in a resolution by the Car Workers to revoke the charter of the Brotherhood of Carmen. The adjustment committee, to which was referred the resolution, reported non-concurrence and recommended that the President and Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor continue their efforts to bring about an amalgamation of the two organizations. At former attempts made at amalgamation between these two organizations the Car Workers made objection, among other things, to amalgamation on account of the indebtedness of the Carmen, although the Carmen had agreed that the payment of these liabilities should only be participated in by the members of the Carmen's organization even though an amalgamation should take place. It appears now that the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen, since affiliation with the American Federation of Labor, has discharged all of its outstanding obligations and therefore no indebtedness remains. The president of the Car Workers, Delegate Richardson, on the following day presented the charter of his organization to President Gompers, not being satisfied with the action of the convention in not concurring in his resolution. President Gompers asked by what authority the charter was returned, and he not receiving a satisfactory reply stated that he thereupon turned over the charter of the Car Workers to Secretary Morrison with instructions to notify the secretary of the car workers' organization that the charter was so held. President Gompers further stated that the action of Delegate Richardson in returning the charter without authority was a usurpation of the rights of the membership of that organization.

A TENSE SITUATION

London, Dec. 2.—Reynolds newspaper has this to say regarding the situation now existing in the post office department: "In reference to the threats of a postal strike, feeling is still running very high. Large numbers of the rank and file are ready to take extreme measures and are not by any means satisfied with the postponement of an inquiry into their grievances for two years. The Postman's Gazette states the view of the employees and contends that no preceding postal agitation has been marked by such unanimity of feeling. A special appeal is being made to Mr. Samuel, the postmaster general, not to ignore the existence of the present widespread discontent."

FRATERNAL DELEGATES

Washington, Dec. 2.—Each year the American Federation of Labor conventions elect three fraternal delegates, two to represent the Federation at the British Trade Union Congress, and one to attend the Dominion Trade and Labor Congress. The Federation will be represented next year at the British Trade Union Congress by G. L. Berry, President of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union, and John H. Walker, of the Coal Miners. John T. Smith will represent the Federation as fraternal delegate to the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, which meets next September at Guelph, Ontario.

AMALGAMATION PLANS

Atlanta Convention of American Federation of Labor Directs Amalgamation of Wood Working Organizations.

Washington, Dec. 2.--The Atlanta convention of the American Federation of Labor through its adjustment committee gave much consideration to the jurisdiction dispute which has been long occupying the stage, between the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, Amalgamated Society of Carpenters, and the Amalgamated Wood Workers. The adjustment committee in reporting on the conditions existing between the United Brotherhood and the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters made the following recommendation, which was adopted by a vote of 15,491 for, to 425 votes against, those not voting representing 1,324 votes:

"Your committee recommends that the President of the American Federation of Labor be instructed to arrange a conference between representatives of the two organizations involved within ninety days from the adjournment of this Convention, with a view of arranging a basis of amalgamation of the two organizations, and in case of disagreement upon the terms of amalgamation agreed upon and submitted by the President and Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, the differences shall be referred to the President and the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor for a final decision, which decision shall be rendered not later than June 1, 1912. Should the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners fail to amalgamate with the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners on or before July 1, 1912, the President of the American Federation of Labor is hereby instructed to revoke the charter of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners."

In the jurisdictional controversy existing between the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and the Amalgamated Wood Workers the committee made an identical report with the one just quoted, the roll call vote being 15,374 in favor, with 409 votes against; 1,457 votes not being recorded either way. If these amalgamations take place the jurisdiction disputes among the Wood Working Unions will be entirely eliminated.

OPPOSES COMMISSION PLAN

Washington, Dec. 2.--The Commission form of a city government has been unfavorably acted on by the Denver Trades and Labor Assembly. It is stated in the local labor paper that the Socialist delegates were unanimously opposed to the Commission form of government, adding, "It would not be out of place here to say that the Socialist delegates opposed Commission government and especially the plan of the Citizens' Party because it does not recognize any Party, neither does it give the right to any citizen to contest for a place on the Commission who is supported by any party."

STRIKE OF MACHINISTS

Philadelphia, Dec. 2.--Refusing to comply with orders recently issued by the company, compelling one man to operate two machines instead of one as heretofore, a number of mechanics employed in the milling department of the Standard Roller Bearing Company have gone out on strike. The strikers say that it was impossible for the men to comply with the demands made by the company.

PAPERS MAKE FALSE STATEMENTS

Washington, Dec. 2.--During the Atlanta convention of the American Federation of Labor, newspapers in Chicago and Cincinnati carried a statement that a "split in big labor body is imminent and organizations of miners secretly lay plans to withdraw from the American Federation of Labor--Reid faction of electrical workers follow movement to form independent federation".- Delegate F. J. Hayes, vice president of the United Mine Workers, called attention to this statement on the floor of the convention and denied it in order that the position of the United Mine Workers might be made clear. "Our international president is not here and as I am the next in official capacity I take this opportunity to deny the statement. The article goes on to state that the delegates of the Western Federation of Miners and United Mine Workers of America held a secret conference the other night to carry out this proposition. I take this occasion to brand the statement as a deliberate falsehood. The United Mine Workers of America and the Western Federation of Miners have ever been loyal to the American labor movement and intend to remain so. Statements of that kind do the miners' organization a great injury. I can not remain silent without making this statement, that our organization may be put in a better light before the public. Some people seem very anxious to misrepresent the miners' organization. We do not want these statements to go unchallenged. We have had no secret conferences with any faction of the electrical workers nor any other organization in this convention, and we will be loyal to this movement to the end."

ENGLISH GAS WORKERS' UNION

London, Dec. 2.--The National Union of Gas Workers and General Laborers has commenced to organize the general workers engaged in the furnishing trades who are not eligible for the Furnishing Trades Association. These men have long hours and are very poorly paid. Only one or two meetings have been held, but a nucleus has been secured that is encouraging.

SCOTTISH MINERS' DEMANDS

Glasgow, Dec. 2.--There is much restlessness among the Scottish miners, and in the case of a national coal strike those in Scotland will join hands with other workers in the country. The Scottish miners' representatives have made a demand for an individual district minimum wage to be paid in all circumstances to all men working at the coal face; that the wages of all boys employed underground be standardized in accordance with the scale proposed. The operators in Wales have already refused these terms and the Scottish operators have done likewise.

LONDON PAINTERS

London, Dec. 2.--The London Federation of Painters and Decorators, and Trade Protection Society, has inaugurated an organizing campaign. There are in this city from 20,000 to 30,000 painters unorganized, and a general program has been outlined to interest this large body of wage earners in the organization of their craft.

PROSECUTION HARD PRESSED

Resorting to Spectacular Vaudeville Methods To Prejudice Public Mind--
Another "Plant" Charged.

Washington, Dec. 2.--In order that further newspaper notoriety may be secured to bolster up the prosecution in the McNamara case, another "scheme" has been unearthed, according to the press dispatches, by the lieutenants of the various hostile Employers' Associations in their effort to railroad the accused men to the gallows. The scenario of this new operative undertaking has evidently been carefully planned, magnificently staged, and the curtain raised at precisely the hour intended. The dispatches state that men employed by the defense to investigate the character and interest of intended jurors has been detected in the act of bribing prospective jurors, and the beneficiary has also been "detected" with his pockets bulging with the coin of the realm. Apparently not a single detail has been omitted to present to the public a spectacular vaudeville act. Interest for some time has been lagging with the prosecution. Newspaper space has been curtailed, and in order to continue the trial of the case in the daily press the latest innovation became necessary. With all the charges made, however, Attorney Darrow, Chief Counsel for the McNamaras, says: "No money has been used by the defense in the manner charged, and I believe the whole affair will be cleared up." Associate Attorney Davis makes the open statement, "That it was a 'plant', and before we get through we will know who did it, and I believe Mr. Fredericks (the prosecuting attorney) will be as much surprised as anybody." These sensational stunts can be expected to be pulled off from time to time in the future as they have been in the past.

A BRUTAL ATTACK

Traction Sluggers Seriously Cripple Amalgamated Association Official and
Beat Up Another Organizer.

Toledo, O., Dec. 2.--While on their way from the Central Labor hall a few nights ago Resin Orr, treasurer of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Men, and John J. Scannell, organizer of the Boot and Shoe Workers' union, were assaulted by three thugs alleged to be in the employ of the local traction company. Resin Orr was struck with a "billy", so the attending physician claims, and the sight of one of his eyes has been permanently destroyed. Scannell was knocked down and kicked, but his injuries are not considered serious. Fortunately one of the sluggers was caught, and on preliminary hearing was bound over in the sum of \$1,000. Orr has been organizing the men employed by the traction company and the company, as usual, are pursuing the tactics commonly employed by street railway companies to thwart organization of their employes.

BLEACHERS' STRIKE SETTLED

Newcastle-on-Tyne, Dec. 2.--The bleachers and dyers employed at Kem Mills, Whittle-le-Woods, near Chorley, recently went on strike. After being out but a short time a conference resulted in reaching an amicable understanding, an increase in wages being granted and the union shop conceded, the non-unionists being advised by the company to "cast their lot with the remainder of the men."

Supreme Court of the District of Columbia Denies Petition of American Federation of Labor.

Washington, Dec. 2.—Since the handing down of the decision of the United States Supreme Court in the Gompers, Mitchell and Morrison alleged contempt case there have been many attempts made by the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia to punish the Federation officials for the alleged contempt of court. These efforts, however, have been met by various pleas and motions, the last one of which, that of the statute of limitations, having been orally argued before the entire District Supreme Court. The District Supreme Court has now overruled the contentions as to the statute of limitations and ordered that a commissioner or examiner be appointed for the purpose of taking testimony and presenting it to the court. Mr. Albert Harper has been appointed as commissioner, the Federation having waived none of its rights in this appointment. While it may appear that the case is drawing to a close, yet it is quite probable that it will be a long time before the case is finally disposed of.

LABOR MEN ASPIRE TO OFFICE

Toronto, Dec. 2.—The Independent Labor Party in Ontario is at present very active prior to the provincial election which takes place Dec. 11. Eight candidates are in the field, all trades unionists. In Hamilton, Allan Studholme, an ex-general president of the Stove Mounters' International Union, is up for election. Studholme has been a member of the legislature for three terms. The last time he defeated a conservative, liberal and socialist. G. H. Roberts, labor whip of the British labor party, and fraternal delegate to the American Federation of Labor Convention at Atlanta, is assisting Mr. Studholme, and the other trade union candidates in Hamilton and Toronto. The Canadian labor party is an organization opposed to socialism, and is consequently opposed by it at every turn.

PER CAPITA TAX RAISED

Washington, Dec. 2.—The Atlanta convention of the American Federation of Labor has raised the per capita tax of national and international unions from $\frac{1}{2}$ cent to $\frac{2}{3}$ of a cent per member per month. The Executive Council in its report recommended the increase. The matter was referred to the Laws Committee and that committee brought in a favorable report. An increase in the per capita tax had become necessary in order to extend the activities of the Federation. The recommendation of the committee was carried by a vote of 123 to 27.

ROCHESTER GETS CONVENTION

Washington, Dec. 2.—The next annual convention of the American Federation of Labor will be held in Rochester, N. Y. There were two other candidates — Seattle, Wash. and Richmond, Va. — for the honor. Rochester was an easy winner in the contest.

Carpenters of Newport, Vt., have secured shorter workday without decrease in pay.

NEWS LETTER COMMENDED

Annual Convention of Federation Also Authorizes Widening of Scope and Volume as Officers Deem Expedient.

Washington, Dec. 2.--Delegates James M. Lynch and T. W. McCullough of the International Typographical union introduced a resolution at the Atlanta convention of the American Federation of Labor commending the dissemination of labor news through the medium of the Weekly News Letter, and authorizing the officers of the Federation to continue the service, increase its scope and volume. The resolution was adopted. After the "whereas," the resolution reads:

"Resolved, That this convention of the American Federation of Labor does hereby commend the course pursued by our officers in thus providing a weekly news service which can be depended upon to furnish the latest and most reliable information obtainable; that it has proven to be of much usefulness to the editors and others involved; that its accuracy has been tested and its service established to the point where its value can hardly be estimated; and, be it further

"Resolved, That our officers be instructed by this convention to continue this service, increasing its scope and volume as they may deem prudent or expedient, and that the secretaries of all organized bodies be requested to co-operate to the end that the value and usefulness of this service may be enhanced."

COLLUSION WITH COURT ALLEGED

Denver, Dec. 2.--In the celebrated contempt of court case, in which a number of striking coal miners were sentenced to jail, the miners by their attorneys, went before the Supreme Court and succeeded in having granted a supersedeas, and the miners were released pending a review by the higher court. Before the hearing was held the attorneys for the coal operators appeared in the lower court and made a motion whereby Judge Whitford released the miners. This move has been made for the purpose of forestalling the miners' endeavor to get a decision from the Supreme Court on the constitutional rights of citizens in constructional contempt cases, the case now coming under the moot class.

SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT

Jamestown, N. Y., Dec. 2.--The Upholsterers strike which has been on in this city, has come to a close, the result of an amicable agreement. A mutually satisfactory understanding has been reached between the Jamestown Lounge Company and their upholsterers, the strike being called off and the men returned to work. The terms of the agreement has not been made public.

ORGANIZED MINING DEPARTMENT

Washington, Dec. 2.--At the Atlanta convention of the American Federation of Labor the delegates from the Western Federation of Miners and the United Mine Workers held a meeting and organized what is known as a mining department. The constitution and by-laws have been drafted and presented to the Executive Council with the request that a charter be issued.

INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM

Washington, Dec. 2.--The Atlanta convention of the American Federation of Labor, in dealing with the question presented in a resolution of electing its officers by a referendum vote, decided: "That the question of the practicability and desirability of electing the officers of the American Federation of Labor by referendum vote be referred to the Executive Council for investigation, with the understanding that they report on this subject to the next annual convention for its consideration."

UNION LABEL DISPLAY AT ATLANTA

Atlanta, Dec. 2.--During the sessions of the American Federation of Labor convention a large display of union label products was exhibited. Collars and cuffs, neckties, ladies' underwear, hosiery and Cardigan jackets, men's underwear, socks, and a large line of children's and infants' underwear, stockings, knit caps, jackets -- all bearing the union label, -- was a revelation to many of the new delegates.

MUSICIANS SECURE CONTRACTS

Jacksonville, Fla.--Dec. 2.--The Musicians' union here has just secured a new agreement covering all the theatres in this city. It is advantageous to the union.

PORTERS AND PACKERS

London, Dec. 2.--Recently there was begun a agitation among the porters and packers, several hundred of whom have joined the Shop Assistants' Union during the last few weeks. The work of organizing is to be continued vigorously.

"TAG DAY" YETS GOOD SUM

Chicago, Dec. 2.--The four hundred wives and daughters of the men who are striking for higher wages on the Illinois Central Railroad had a most successful "tag day" of their own. It is stated that the total results of the "tag day" was the collection of \$15,000. All of the money collected will be used in aiding those of the strikers whose families are in want.

ALL OFFICERS RE-ELECTED

Washington, Dec. 2.--The president, secretary, treasurer, and all members of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, have been re-elected without opposition.

LABOR PAPER IN SOUTH AFRICA

Cape Town, Dec. 2.--The South African Labor Herald, a paper devoted to the interest of wage earners, has been started in this city, the initial issue consisting of eight pages.

Printers of St. Thomas, Ont. have secured an increase of wages without friction.